

Key Messages:

Q. Why did the Chief Resign?

- As you can appreciate, this is a Labour Relation matter, and I cannot provide a comment. I can tell you that effective immediately Peter Sloly is no longer employed with the Ottawa Police Service.
- Deputy Chief Steve Bell has agreed to accept the role of Interim Chief on a temporary basis.
- The Board is working in the immediate to appoint a new Chief of Police and we expect to have someone in place very soon.

Q. Why did the Board not fire him earlier?

- I think it is important for the public to understand the limitations of the Ottawa Police Services Board.
- We cannot direct police operations, we cannot tell the police what or how to enforce, and we cannot fire a Chief of Police. We simply do not have the authority.
- We are an oversight body.
- And since the beginning of this occupation, I have been working hard, mostly behind the scenes to fulfill that role.
- And I have to say it's been a real challenge. I have constantly been asking the Chief to provide a plan and pushing for details around resourcing and enforcement.
- I have been working every channel to push for more resources, speaking with experts across the country, and exploring every legal avenue we could use to bring this to an end.
- My role as Chair of the Board is significantly different than that of my colleagues who have played a more visual role on the frontlines supporting their constituents. I applaud their work, but I have been focused on finding solutions to end the occupation.

Q. What can we expect to change?

- As we have said since the beginning, a municipal police force cannot possibly have the capacity, the expertise, and the resources to manage an occupation of this scale. They are simply not equipped.

- Today, the Board received an update on the Integrated Command Centre approach with the RCMP and the OPP. Both agencies have more experience in managing these types of large-scale events. They bring with them the knowledge base, capabilities, resources, and best practices to effectively end this occupation.
- We have seen the effectiveness of the group at the Ambassador Bridge and we will now have that level of capability here in Ottawa
- We've also got greater tools at our disposal with the enacting of the Emergencies Act and the Provincial State of Emergency.
- And we have full expectation that our new Chief will bring a more collaborative approach. Bringing together leading experts in policing together to produce a plan to bring about a peaceful end to this occupation.

Q. Who will you be bringing in as the New Chief? Insider/Outsider?

- The ink is to quite dry on the contract, but I can tell you that we hope to have this person in place in Ottawa as early as Monday.
- In the interim, the Integrated Command Centre will continue to operate to ensure that progress is still being made to control this occupation.

Q. Isn't the Board part of the problem? People have asked for your resignation as well.

- I understand the public's frustration. I am frustrated too. The Board has been hamstrung by the Police Services Act in its ability to take the type of action the public would like to see.
- As I said earlier, we cannot direct police operations. But I too cannot understand how police have been unable to use the resources they have to stop the carnival of chaos on Parliament Hill.
- How difficult is it to unplug a hot tub, deflate a bouncy castle, or prevent a concert size stage from being erected? Its impossible to understand.
- As time has gone on I have become increasingly unhappy about the failure to make progress in rolling back the truckers. I demanded reports from Chief Sloly daily. We spoke sometimes several times a day. We asked him to do three things: to layout the resources he needed to end this disruption, to give us a deadline for ending it, and to back that up with a detailed plan.

- We got one out three. It is clear that we need a visible change in strategy.
- We are looking to see that change with the implementation of the Integrated Command Centre, which is a trilateral table and decisions will be made jointly with the OPP and RCMP from here out. We will now have access to people with the expertise we need- some of the best minds in policing. This in addition to new leadership, I think is the change we've been needing.

Q. There have been allegations that the Chief was a bully and acted unprofessional which affected his ability to lead. Did these allegations factor into his resignation and was the Board aware of these allegations?

- I cannot speak about the Chief's departure, but I can say that the Board had received a complaint a number of months ago with regard to the Chief.
- The Board takes all complaints seriously and we forwarded the complaint for investigation to the OCPC, the investigative body for these types of concerns.
- We have not had a report back from the OCPC.
- The recent allegations as outlined in the CBC article, were only brought to my attention yesterday via the media. The Board did not receive a formal or informal complaint directly.

Q. This weekend we had a number of counter protesters out stopping convoy participants with success. Why is it residents are able to take more action than police?

- Residents are upset and rightfully so, the lack of enforcement by police has left people feeling like they have to take the situation into their own hands.
- I thought a number of times of wanting to pop that hot tub myself.
- What we've heard is that police do not have enough resources to effectively police this protest. We have seen more OPP and RCMP support arrive, and the Integrated Command Centre should help us deploy our resources more effectively moving forward so that residents do not have to do the work of police.

Q. The Mayor negotiated a deal with the occupiers, what are your thoughts on that?

- I said from the beginning that we should not be negotiating with these unlawful occupiers. I do not think that it was the right approach or that it will produce the outcome that we want, which is to get these occupiers out of city.

- Council does not have the ability to direct police. I can tell you that the agreement does not prevent occupiers from being charged and we will continue to pursue all legal avenues to remove these trucks.

Q. So what's the plan? How is this going to end?

- I really think this ends when we as a country all come together as stand up to these occupiers. Everyone is so focused on pointing fingers and tearing people down that we've lost sight of the end goal.
- I have been a leader in the city for 25 years and what I can tell you is that when we all get in the same boat and row in the same direction- we see the best results.
- We need to focus on coordinating our efforts with the OPP with the RCMP, we need to bring in the right people with the right expertise to both develop and implement a plan that will bring a peaceful end to this occupation.
- We can't be making back-channel deals with the occupiers, essentially inviting them to stay longer in our city. We can't keep working at cross purposes.
- We're bringing in a new Chief that understands our goals and we need as a city need to give this person the support of the city behind them.
- These occupiers have held our city hostage. We can't let them leave it broken too.